

ACTIVE news

The Advisory Council For Technical-Vocational Education In Texas



Dorothy R. Robinson, Chairman

Alton D. Ice, Executive Director

Box 1886 Austin, Texas 78767 512/475-2046

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BRISCOE CALLS FOR CLOSER BUSINESS/EDUCATION TIES

"We have a compelling responsibility to make certain that our educational system is responsive to the needs and demands of today's society," Governor Dolph Briscoe told members of the 65th Legislature in his "State of the State Address," delivered January 12th.

Briscoe said "we must have an even closer partnership between the business community and the education community to ensure that we are training the young people for the needs of tomorrow."

In speaking of voc-ed, Briscoe said "to change attitudes and develop the support necessary for vocational-technical education, including proven apprenticeship programs, we must become more accurate in our ability to assess needs---needs of the individual and needs for tomorrow's economy."

He voiced a concern regarding the availability of voc-ed in the State's secondary schools. "Of 750 school districts with an average daily attendance of less than 1,000 only 163 had opportunities available to their students to participate in vocational programs other than agriculture and homemaking."

Briscoe was also concerned about the dropout rate in grades seven through ten, saying it is "totally unacceptable when one considers the educational needs of our complex society." He went on to say "that a career emphasis, a greater opportunity for vocational-technical education in those grades, will help to reduce that very high dropout rate."



Dolph Briscoe

He added "if students could begin to develop multiple skills in those grade levels, the power of our public schools to hold students would certainly improve. Such an improvement would prevent the loss of the quality of life which results from under-education."

Briscoe touched on public school finance during his address. He noted that a raise in the State's share of the Minimum Foundation Program from 75 to 90 percent would result "in a 60 percent reduction of the statewide local fund assignment, the amount local districts have to raise to match State dollars."

He also noted that "many school districts lack the resources to have a flexible program designed to meet local needs." He said that State equalization aid is provided many districts in an amount too small to make a significant impact. He recommends that "State funding for equalization aid be increased to a level of \$250 million for the 1978-79 biennium and be provided only to those school districts below the statewide average wealth per student."

GOV'S CONFERENCE UNFOLDS FEBRUARY 15-16TH

The Governor's Conference on Vocational-Technical Education unfolds February 15-16th at the Municipal Auditorium in Austin.

Sponsored by the Governor and ACTIVE, the Conference will offer an estimated 2,000 participants an opportunity to share ideas and address a variety of issues relevant to vocational, technical, manpower, and adult education. "Vocational Education...Gateway to the Future" will be the Conference (See GOV'S CONFERENCE, page 2)

(GOV'S CONFERENCE, continued from page 1) theme. The conference will kick off with a 1:30 p.m. general session on February 15th with Governor Briscoe delivering the conference address. Nine workshops will follow the opening session.

The workshops will cover the funding of voc-ed; evaluating voc-ed programs; the delivery of voc-ed services; making meaningful career decisions; adult education and special services; voc-ed data and information systems; parenthood education; the effective use of voc-ed advisory committees; and the student viewpoint.

A reception and banquet will be held the evening of February 15th, with Lt. Governor Bill Hobby slated as the banquet speaker.

The workshops will continue at 8:30 a.m. on February 16th. A general session will follow at 10:30 a.m. Texas House Speaker Bill Clayton is slated to provide the keynote address.

Reports on each of the workshops and a conference wrap-up will also be given during this general session. The conference will adjourn at noon.

An exhibit hall, depicting educational resources and manpower needs, will open at 10:00 a.m. on February 15th, and will remain open for much of the conference.

If you have not made plans to attend the conference and would like to, you may register when you arrive. Registration opens at 10:00 a.m. on February 15th. There is a \$15 registration fee which covers all activities. If you can only attend the second day of the conference, there would be no registration fee.

The March issue of the ACTIVE News will carry highlights of the conference. A report on the entire conference will be published early this summer.

TEA VOC-ED REORGANIZATION COMPLETED

The reorganization of the Texas Education Agency's Department of Occupational Education and Technology was completed in Decem-

ber, some nine months after it was announced by Cadar Parr, TEA's Associate Commissioner for the DOET.

"We needed better communication from within, and more direct lines of communication with the local schools in order to improve the delivery of voc-ed services," said Parr.



Cadar Parr

The main feature of the reorganization is the grouping of all divisions within the department, except research, under two headings--programs and support services. A Research Coordination Unit (RCU) operates independently but closely with all divisions within the department.

Ben Teague is the programs administrator. He is responsible for the divisions of secondary, post-secondary, and adult programs. Bill Fitz heads up support services which includes vocational guidance, curricula, personnel development, and planning and evaluation.

Ray Barber heads up the RCU. Joe Neely is assisting Parr in providing leadership and coordination for all program planning and development activities.

Serving directly under Teague are Hayden McDaniel, director of secondary programs; Bill Grusy, director of post-secondary programs; and Bob Allen, director of adult programs. McDaniel and Grusy replaced L.V. Ballard and Jim Haynie who retired.

Under Fitz, Joe Tokash is the coordinator of guidance; Pat Lindley coordinates curricula; Leo Schreiner is in charge of personnel development; and Dan Bristow coordinates planning and evaluation.

NACVE EVALUATING BOAE

The National Advisory Council on Vocational Education has begun a two-year performance evaluation of the U.S. Office of Education (See NACVE, page 3)

(NACVE, continued from page 2)
tion's Bureau of Occupational and Adult Education.

NACVE Executive Director Reginald Petty said he hoped the evaluation would be "positive," with the focus not on past mistakes but on how BOAE can best carry out the new voc-ed law.

"We don't want to beat somebody over the head for things that happened in the past," Petty said. Still, shortcomings at BOAE have come to light in congressional and General Accounting Office investigations over the past two years, and the Council wants to know how programs are currently administered and evaluated, Petty said.

The NACVE plans to conduct the evaluation with its own staff and funds. During the first year, the focus will be on how well BOAE carries out requirements of the law.

The second year will be devoted to assessing BOAE's national impact on voc-ed programs, with an eye on how programs are evaluated at the federal level.

The Council hopes to have the first phase of the evaluation far enough along by this summer so that recommendations can be sent to BOAE before the new vocational education legislation goes into effect October 1, Petty said.

SCHOOL ADMINISTRATION KEY TO COMMITTEE EFFECTIVENESS

"The formula to a successful vocational advisory committee is having a school administration that is willing to enter into a dialogue with industry," says Jack Slagle, chairman of the Houston Independent School District Advisory Committee for Vocational Education.

Slagle, director of Management Development & Training for the Anderson Clayton Co. discussed recently the industry/education relationship in Houston with the ACTIVE News. He has served on advisory committees to the Houston ISD for six years and has spent the past two years heading up the overall voc-ed committee.

"Our relationship with the schools is not a case of telling them what to do, but to make known the needs of industry and labor. The schools must make the final decision," he said.



Jack Slagle

"Industry is the primary user of the voc-ed product; therefore it behooves us to provide as much input as possible to the schools. We want to see people come out of the schools who are employable," he added.

Slagle feels that "industry people will do a lot of things for the schools if they think they are doing some good. An advisory committee will be effective if they see achievement and recognition for their efforts--if they have a cause."

The Houston ISD has heavily utilized its advisory committees in ensuring quality programs. Committee members have felt wanted.

Slagle says a good example is "a comprehensive evaluation of the school district's vocational programs that we conducted in the Spring of 1975 at the request of the school administration."

"This was an extensive effort involving visits to the individual classrooms of all the vocational programs in the district. Over 150 people representing business, commerce, labor, and government were involved in the evaluation," said Slagle.

"We looked at the adequacy of facilities, instructional tools and equipment, the relevancy of course content and objectives, teacher performance, student participation, and safety."

"Without exception, we were welcomed by the building principals and shown every possible courtesy and assistance by the classroom teachers," he said. "There were some definite conclusions and recommendations (See SLAGLE, page 4)

(SLAGLE, continued from page 3)
for improving voc-ed in the district, but for the most part, the district has an excellent program of vocational education."

"We were quite pleased with the quality of teachers," Slagle noted. "There is a definite correlation between teacher enthusiasm, dedication, and involvement, and the more successful programs."

How does the school administration feel about advisory committees? Billy McClen-don, vocational director for the Houston ISD, says the "advisory committees have proven immensely valuable in providing moral support, support on bond issues, and in providing input on where the entry level job needs exist in the work community."

"They have also been immensely valuable in easing the school to work transition by assisting in job placement," says McClen-don. "They have also provided tremendous assistance in the planning of facilities and programs, and they have been instru-

mental in making the personnel exchange program between industry/education work."

Slagle feels that if there is room for improvement in the industry/education relationship it would be "that more informal contact is needed with vocational educators at the administration level."

OCCUPATIONAL PROSPECTS SUMMARIZED

The spring Occupational Outlook Quarterly includes a summary of 275 occupations.

For each occupation, the summary gives the estimated employment in 1974, the average annual openings for 1974-85, and a brief statement about employment prospects. Copies are available for \$1.30 from the U.S. Government Printing Office, Washington, D.C. 20402 (Superintendent of Documents).

The January ACTIVE News was not published due to the work involved in planning the Feb. 15-16th Governor's Conference.

The Advisory Council for Technical-
Vocational Education in Texas
P. O. Box 1886
Austin, Texas 78767

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